United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/931
15 July 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ United Nations mission, back from Iraq, recommends lifting of sanctions by Security Council.

◆ Security Council holds informal consultations on United Nations inspections of Iraqi nuclear sites and equipment. Members hear from Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar; Chairman of United Nations Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, Swedish Ambassador Rolf Ekeus; and Executive Director of International Atomic Energy Agency, Hans Blix.

◆ Iraq, in identical letters to Secretary-General and Security Council President, complains that United States threatens to carry out further large-scale military attacks.

◆ United Nations Verification Mission in El Salvador to begin operation on 26 July.

◆ Inter-agency appeal is launched for additional $250 million in emergency assistance for people afflicted by drought and famine in the Horn of Africa.

◆ Indian Ocean Committee concludes session with report to General Assembly proposing first-stage conference in Sri Lanka next year.

◆ International Fund for Agricultural Development and Bangladesh sign $10 million loan agreement for a small livestock development to help rural landless.

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A United Nations assessment mission which returned from Iraq has recommended that the Security Council lift sanctions in order to let the country address its urgent humanitarian needs.

The mission called on the Sanctions Committee of the Security Council to allow Iraq to sell oil to earn money needed to buy food and to improve health, water and sanitation services as well as power generation and the

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telecommunication sector. The mission said a monitoring system should be set up to ensure that supplies and services were made available to those who needed them.

In a foreward to the report to the Secretary-General, Executive Delegate Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan said "the tragic consequences of the Gulf conflict, the untold loss of life and destruction, were compounded by massive displacement of ill-prepared populations, by ecological disasters of unprecedented magnitude, by the collapse of the structures that sustain life in today's human societies". He went on to say the upheaval's effects were leading to "the gradual but inexorable collapse of essential services, risking a humanitarian crisis whose eventual dimensions would dwarf today's difficulties".

According to a United Nations spokeswoman, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan will come to New York this Sunday, 21 July, and will address the Security Council's Sanctions Committee next Monday or Tuesday.

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The Security Council held informal consultations today to discuss United Nations nuclear inspections and Iraqi compliance. During the meeting, Council members heard from Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, as well as from the Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, Swedish Ambassador Rolf Ekeus; and the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Hans Blix.

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Iraq has complained of threats by the United States to carry out further military attacks.

In identical letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, Iraq has claimed that the United States continues to conduct "a frenzied and large-scale campaign of threats" to carry out further military action against Iraq, despite Iraq's "serious and active cooperation" with the Security Council's cease-fire resolution.

The letters, dated 12 July, signed by Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein, and transmitted to the United Nations by Ambassador Abdul Amir Al-Anbari, referred specifically to the high-level United Nations mission which was sent to Iraq to guarantee Iraqi compliance with nuclear inspections teams. The letters state that the United States is using the issue of non-compliance as a pretext to conduct a massive military attack and has declared its intention to strike at nuclear locations and equipment.

According to the letters, Iraq has accepted all the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and has already declared its absolute willingness to enable the United Nations inspections to visit and view all locations with safety and security.

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Iraq also asserted that American officials wish to maintain economic sanctions against Iraq and interfere in its internal affairs, and asked the Security Council to put an end to what it called "this aggressive behaviour" on the part of the United States.

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It was announced today that the establishment of the United Nations Verification Mission in El Salvador is planned for 26 July. It will be known by its Spanish acronym ONUSAL (Observadores de las Naciones Unidas en El Salvador). The Mission was authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 693 of 20 May; and its mandate will be to verify compliance by the parties with the provisions of the Agreement on Human Rights signed between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) in San Jose in July 1990.

The deployment of ONUSAL has been planned in two phases. During the first, to last about 60 days, the Mission will establish its central offices and four regional offices (San Salvador, San Miguel, Santa Ana and San Vicente), organize its operations, familiarize itself with the administration, legal and judicial systems in El Salvador and establish working contacts and procedures.

In the second phase, tentatively scheduled for October, ONUSAL will undertake its full functions, which will be: active monitoring of the human rights situation in El Salvador; investigation of specific cases of alleged violations of human rights; promotion of human rights in El Salvador; making recommendations to eliminate violations of, and to promote respect for, human rights; reporting to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

The ONUSAL will be headed by Iqbal Riza, in the capacity of Special Delegate of the Secretary-General with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General. The Director for Human Rights Verification will be Philippe Texier, at present a Juge de Grande Instance in Evry, whose services have been made available by the Government of France.

The Mission has been authorized by the Security Council up to 30 June 1992.

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Today, at a press conference at United Nations Headquarters, attention was drawn to the ongoing crisis in the Horn of Africa and the United Nations response. Outlining the current financial situation, James Grant, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); James Ingram, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP); and James Jonah, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Special Political Affairs, said an additional $250 million was needed this year to cover emergency relief requirements. Mr. Ingram stressed that the crisis was not new and would take several years to solve. He said the drought was just as bad as in 1983-1984,

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and there was an added complication of people moving across frontiers. In addition, he said there was a need to address agricultural production and development. Mr. Grant said the situation was acute and would continue to deteriorate until the next rainy season.

The officials said there was recognition that there could be no end to famine in Africa so long as there was civil conflict. They also said there was a need for increased coordination between the countries involved and that the United Nations had a role to play in bringing the parties together to stop the fighting.

In that light, Mr. Jonah announced that the Secretary-General had asked him to travel to the Horn region on 29 and 30 July to speak to the parties involved in order to remove underlying difficulties regarding the provision of humanitarian assistance.

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The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean concluded its second and final session for 1991, on Friday, 12 July, with a report to the General Assembly proposing a first-stage Conference on the Indian Ocean to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 1992. Following the conclusion of the first stage, the merit of holding two additional stages should be considered.

It is envisaged that the Conference will lead to the implementation of the 1971 General Assembly Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

The Committee decided that it would defer the matter of the draft final document of the Conference to the Conference itself.

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The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Bangladesh have launched a new small livestock development project that will assist hundreds of thousands of landless rural men and women in Bangladesh to become more productive and self-reliant.

The IFAD's President, Idriss Jazairy, and Bangladesh's Ambassador to Italy, Waliur Rahman, have signed a $10.8 million loan agreement that, along with cofinancing by the Danish International Development Agency and the Government of Bangladesh, will support the $15.1 million small livestock development project.

Under its mandate, IFAD provides the rural poor with the resources and support they need to build a better life for themselves. This new project is regarded as an important step towards improving food security and incomes of the vulnerable people of Bangladesh.

Referring to the recent loss of lives and devastation of homes and crops caused by the April cyclones in Bangladesh, Mr. Jazairy said that, although IFAD was not an emergency relief organization, the situation in the country and IFAD's long association with its rural development programmes had spurred the Fund to consider the acceleration of the building of emergency shelters in cyclone- and flood-prone areas of the country.

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Prepared by Central News

DH/932
16 July 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Officials of the United Nations team inspecting Iraqi nuclear facilities say it would be difficult to believe that Iraq's nuclear programme had been aimed at exclusively peaceful issues.

- Secretary-General calls on Security Council to lift sanctions against Iraq so that it can make payments to Compensation Fund.

- Secretary-General sends message to Group of Seven Summit in London, urging that the developing countries be allowed to participate in international debate on economic issues.

- The International Committee of the Red Cross expresses concern about detainees in Israel and the occupied territories, in view of "the lack of response to previous representations".

- Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission concludes session; next round of talks set for 12 August.

- Secretary-General to attend Iberoamerican Summit of Heads of State and Government in Mexico.

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Officials of the United Nations team inspecting nuclear facilities in Iraq said last night that it would be difficult to believe that Iraq's nuclear programme had been aimed at exclusively peaceful purposes, based on the results of their inspections.

That statement was made as they briefed correspondents following their oral report to the Security Council on their work in Iraq. The panel consisted of Rolf Ekeus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission set up under Security Council resolution 687 (1991) to inspect and dispose of Iraqi armaments; Hans Blix, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is empowered under resolution 687 to conduct similar

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inspections of Iraq's nuclear materials and facilities; and Maurizio Zifferero, Deputy Director-General and head of the IAEA action team conducting those inspections.

Mr. Ekeus said that, at the request of the members of the Security Council, the team had presented some assessments and early results based on the two nuclear inspections which had been carried out, and the third inspection, which was now concluding in Baghdad. The team had also given an assessment and analysis of the Iraqi declarations, especially one which arrived on 7 July, as well as additional information which had come out on Sunday, 14 July.

Mr. Ekeus said the report to the Council had highlighted the uranium enrichment programme which had now been confirmed by Iraq, and whether it was fundamentally directed at peaceful energy production or for nuclear-weapons production. He said the answers to those questions were not to be given by the team but by Council members.

Mr. Blix said most people, in considering Iraq's nuclear programme, which cost billions of dollars, would say "it was not plausible that this was a peaceful programme". He said he told the Council that the Iraqi programme had not been conducted in compliance with Iraq's obligations under the safeguards agreement with IAEA, under which Iraq would have been obliged to declare some of the materials which had only now become public.

For that reason, he had convoked a special meeting of IAEA's Board of Governors for Thursday, 18 July. If the Board accepted that view, it would report on that non-compliance to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has urged the Security Council to lift the sanctions against Iraq to enable the country to sell oil in order to make payments to the Compensation Fund.

The Fund has been set up under the auspices of the United Nations to handle claims for damages and losses resulting from Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. The Fund was established by the Security Council as part of the terms of the cease-fire resolution.

In a report to the Council, dated 15 July, the Secretary-General recommended that Iraq be allowed to sell some oil and petroleum products as "the most obvious way of obtaining financial resources" for the Compensation Fund. He said "the net proceeds of such sales would be deposited in a United Nations account to be used to reimburse the costs" of carrying out the tasks related to the Fund. The Secretary-General said the quantities to be sold would have to be established "in the light of these costs".

He recommended that the sanctions imposed on Iraq under Security Council resolution 661 (1990) be "lifted for a limited period and under clearly defined conditions", in order to provide revenues to the Fund. He said the

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arrangement would require strict cooperation on the part of Iraq and close international supervision and monitoring of the sale of petroleum and petroleum products from Iraq. The Secretary-General said that if Iraq failed to meet its payment obligations, he would report the matter to the Security Council.

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Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar has urged the seven major industrial Powers to include the developing countries in the international decision-making process on economic issues.

In a message to the Group of Seven Summit in London, the Secretary-General called for an international conference to discuss the overall requirement of adequate financial resources for development. He said stronger economic growth, the phasing out of agricultural subsidies, as well as deeper cuts in military expenditures, both in industrialized and developing countries, could generate substantial new resources.

The Secretary-General also proposed the forgiveness of official debt and increased financial flows to Africa. He said that without far-reaching long-term measures in support of the efforts of the African countries, the world might be confronted with a tragedy of vast dimensions. He also recommended the writing off of a large part of debt to other heavily indebted countries.

The Secretary-General criticized protectionism, and called on the industrialized countries to create a truly liberal international trading system which would provide far greater access to developed markets.

While recognizing the need for additional assistance to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, he said such aid should not come at the expense of the developing countries.

The Secretary-General also said that environmental issues should not be conditions for international assistance, but rather that the industrialized countries should renew efforts to provide developing nations with environmentally sound technologies.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar also spoke about the financial needs of the United Nations, saying more resources were needed to strengthen the Organization to enable it to deal with emergency situations.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today submitted a further report to the highest authorities of the State of Israel, on the situation of detainees undergoing interrogation in Israel and the occupied territories, in view of what it calls "the lack of response to previous representations".

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According to a press release issued at United Nations Headquarters today, ICRC said its delegates have regularly visited detainees in investigation sections in Israel and the occupied territories, on the basis of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

The ICRC said it was appealing to the Israeli authorities to give special attention to the treatment of detainees under interrogation, and to implement the recommendations the Organization has already made.

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The Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission has concluded its second round of talks, which lasted approximately two weeks in Geneva.

Decisions were reached on the methodology to be applied in demarcating the western portion, on the approximate location of the boundary in the vicinity of Safwan in the northern section and on the need to undertake new survey and mapping to facilitate final demarcation.

Surveying of a wide zone around the boundary, which will be undertaken by the national survey departments of New Zealand and Sweden in a joint venture, will begin in the fall. The next round of talks is scheduled for 12 August in Geneva.

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A United Nations spokesman announced today that the Secretary-General will travel to Mexico tomorrow, 17 July, at the invitation of the Mexican Government, to attend the first Iberoamerican Summit of Heads of State and Government. During the Summit, the Secretary General will hold bilateral meetings with Heads of State and Government. He will return to New York on Saturday, 20 July.

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17 July 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Lebanese Ambassador to United Nations calls for prompt implementation of 1978 Security Council resolution which calls for withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

- The World Food Programme announces that it will provide emergency food aid worth more than $43 million for persons affected by drought in Ethiopia.

- The Security Council accepts Secretary-General's proposal on appointment of Major-General Lawrence A. Uwumarogie of Nigeria as Chief Military Observer of United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

- Speakers at Economic and Social Council meeting in Geneva discuss ways to reactivate growth in developing world.

- The United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and Law of Sea announces meeting of technical experts on issue of high seas fisheries on Monday, 22 July at Headquarters.

- The International Committee of Red Cross appeals to parties in Yugoslavia to respect red cross emblem.

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The Lebanese Ambassador to the United Nations has called for the prompt implementation of 1978 Security Council resolution 425 calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, Ambassador Khalil Makkawi of Lebanon said it was time to take action to end Israel's occupation, which had been allowed to continue for 13 years, in "blatant violation" of United Nations decisions.

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The letter said that, at a time when Lebanon was ushering in a new dawn of peace for most of the nation, and the United Nations was witnessing growing strength as part of the new world order, it was no longer acceptable that the blatant Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon be allowed to stand.

The letter called for the renewal of mandate of UNIFIL -- the United Nations Interim Force in southern Lebanon, for another six months -- saying their presence would provide much needed assistance and support for the civilian population faced with the "violent and arbitrary nature of Israeli occupation". The current mandate of UNIFIL expires on 31 July.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has announced that it will provide emergency food aid worth more than $43 million for persons affected by drought in Ethiopia.

Emergency food aid totalling nearly $9.5 million will also be sent to Madagascar, Djibouti, the Central African Republic and the Philippines.

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The Security Council has accepted a proposal by Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar concerning the appointment of Major-General Lawrence A. Uwumarogie of Nigeria as the Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II).

Major-General Uwumarogie replaces Brigadier-General Pericles Serreira Gomes of Brazil, who lays down his command in early August.

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The alleviation of the debt burden, the strengthening of the multilateral trading system and increased development assistance are necessary to reactivate growth in the developing world.

That was the view of many speakers addressing the Economic and Social Council, currently meeting in Geneva, as it discussed the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on International Economic Cooperation -- which states that "economic policies should have as their ultimate objective the betterment of the human condition".

Speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community (EEC), the representative of the Netherlands, Peter Post, said the Community supported the need to pursue anti-inflationary policies and to increase global savings and reduce deficits.

He said the European single market would improve growth and trade prospects for the world as a whole and that the Community attached great importance to the timely completion of the Uruguay Round as a step to strengthen the multilateral trading system. He also pledged support to Eastern European countries in this difficult period of economic transition.

Speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries, the representative of Ghana, Obeng Kufour, said current policies had stultified development and engendered poverty in developing countries. Developing countries needed an open and liberalized trade system and the United Nations development system had an important role to play.

The representative of the Soviet Union, Eugeny Makeyev, said his country aimed to achieve full integration into the world economy through the creation of conditions for free enterprise and overcoming State monopolism as well as transformation of the production structure.

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A five-day meeting of technical experts on the issue of high seas fisheries will be convened at Headquarters on Monday, 22 July, by the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

At the forthcoming meeting, the experts will discuss ways of promoting more effective implementation of the high seas fisheries regime, with particular attention to the development of possible guidelines to assist States in improving the level of cooperation in the conservation and management of high seas fisheries.

The meeting is the third in a series being held by the United Nations to promote the uniform and consistent application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Previous meetings dealt with issues of baselines -- the lines from which jurisdictional limits are measured -- and the regime for marine scientific research.

The Law of the Sea Convention, adopted in 1982, has received 159 signatures and has already been ratified by 47 States and entities.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has reported that, from the beginning of the recent events in Yugoslavia, it has heard repeated allegations of misuse of the red cross emblem.

In a press release issued at United Nations Headquarters today, ICRC said that it has sent an appeal on 16 July to all the parties involved, calling on them to comply with the basic rules of international humanitarian law.

The ICRC said it has reminded the parties that use of the red cross emblem was strictly limited to medical and protection activities and that any misuse of the emblem was a serious violation of humanitarian law that jeopardized the safety of Red Cross personnel and deprived the victims of the assistance to which they were entitled.

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18 July 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General, in Guadalajara for Iberoamerican Summit, holds talks with Heads of State including President Fidel Castro of Cuba, and President Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador.

- United Nations Special Commission says it would be "inappropriate" to take the Government of Iraq's statements on nuclear programme at "face value".

- Members of Economic and Social Council discuss revitalization of global economy and the Council itself, and the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

- Following Group of Seven Summit agreement, World Bank President Barber B. Conable welcomes opportunity to assist Soviet Union in economic development and structural reform.

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announces provision of assistance and protection to some 200,000 displaced persons in Ethiopia.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has arrived in Guadalajara, Mexico, to participate as an observer in the first Iberoamerican Summit of Heads of State and Government, which was scheduled to open officially this afternoon.

According to a spokesman, the Secretary-General held bilateral talks yesterday, 17 July, with President Fidel Castro of Cuba, with whom he discussed the current world situation, Cuba's role in the Security Council and the situation in Latin America. The Secretary-General also met with President Carlos Salinas of Mexico and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain, President Cesar Gaviria of Columbia and President Alberto Fujimori of Peru.

This morning, the Secretary-General met with President Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador, with whom he discussed the ongoing peace talks between the

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Government and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), as well as the upcoming United Nations Verification Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

In addition to the 21 Heads of State and Government from Latin America, Spain and Portugal, also attending the meeting are: Federico Mayor, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Gert Rosenthal, Executive Director of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Joao Baena Soares, Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS); and Enrique Iglesias, President of the Inter-American Development Bank.

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The Special Commission said today that the question of how much highly enriched uranium may have been accumulated by Iraq must remain open.

In a press release issued at Headquarters today, the Commission said reports from the inspection teams make it clear "that there is much work to be done before any conclusions can be reached about whether or not more equipment or material remains to be turned over to the IAEA/Special Commission".

The Commission said new information offered by the Iraqi Government was only made available after the inspection team had discovered activities aimed at hiding the equipment and keeping the uranium enrichment programme secret. The Commission said it would thus be "inappropriate to take the Government of Iraq's statements at face value".

The Special Commission said only further inspections could establish the extent of the enrichment activities, and whether or not Iraq has been active in other technologies in this field as well.

The Commission said "there is nothing offered by Iraq to date to give confidence in a conclusion that significant quantities of highly-enriched uranium have not been produced".

A United Nations spokesman said today that under resolution 687 (1991), IAEA inspections of Iraqi nuclear sites were continuing. He said a new inspection team would travel to Iraq next week to replace the current team which leaves Iraq this Saturday.

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In Geneva, members of the Economic and Social Council are discussing the revitalization of the global economy and the Council itself and the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

During the debate, Edward Marks, the representative of the United States, said the revitalization of the Council was an old dream and that little had been achieved. The Council, he said, should find a way to perform needed

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tasks in its role as a principal organ of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. The Council needed to become more effective by enhancing both the substance and follow-through of the General Assembly.

On the subject of minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the Council heard from the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, Margaret J. Anstee, who said that the accident at the nuclear power plant had erroneously been filed away in the minds of many as no longer of consequence. Ms. Anstee, who is also the Coordinator for international assistance efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, pointed out that the explosion of Unit 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear plant on 26 April 1986 "involved the largest short-term release from a single source of radioactive materials to the atmosphere ever recorded".

She said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) estimated that more than 1 million people still lived in contaminated regions, including the southwestern part of the largest Soviet republic, the Russian Federation. A representative of the Ukraine called victims of the disaster in his country "ecological refugees" and said there were some 100,000 such persons waiting to be resettled.

In his address to the Council, Abel Gonzalez of IAEA explained that some 50 technical missions had studied the health situation in the affected areas and had concluded that radiation doses incurred by the population, as well as those expected to be delivered in the future, were lower than originally estimated. He said the reports had refuted the common media image of dramatic radiation effects.

However, some delegates expressed dissatisfaction with the results of the report, saying the full effect on human health would not be known for years to come.

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The President of the World Bank, Barber B. Conable, has welcomed the opportunity to apply the extensive experience of his bank in economic development and structural reform to the challenges facing the Soviet Union.

In a statement issued yesterday, 17 July, following the agreement reached in London by the Group of Seven industrialized nations, Mr. Conable said that, having participated in the joint study of the Soviet economy which was carried out last fall, the World Bank's staff was "already familiar with many of the complex and difficult issues" that must be addressed.

He said discussions with member nations made him confident that they would support the establishment of a relationship with the Soviet Union, and added that the assistance his agency could provide would prove beneficial to the international community as a whole.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has informed the United Nations that it is providing assistance and protection to some 200,000 displaced persons in Ethiopia, mostly demobilized soldiers of the former Government's army, who were obliged to leave Eritrea at the end of hostilities.

In a press release issued at United Nations Headquarters today, ICRC said it was providing humanitarian assistance to more than 50,000 people in some of the ICRC camps, and thousands more were arriving every day. The ICRC had already taken more than 20,000 displaced persons back to their home areas. At present, some 40 ICRC delegates and more than 840 Ethiopian Red Cross staff were involved in the operation.

According to ICRC, additional aid is essential to avert a rapid deterioration in the health situation.

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United Nations

Press Release

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19 July 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- IAEA Board of Governors condemns Iraq for non-compliance with safeguards agreement; first time a State party to the Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty has been condemned by the Agency.

- Office of Sadruddin Aga Khan reports clashes between Kurds and Iraqi military in northern Iraq; 50 to 500 casualties reported.

- Kuwait informs Security Council of nearly 4,000 prisoners of war and detainees still in Iraq.

- Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar meets with various Presidents at Iberoamerican Summit in Mexico.

- Brazilian soccer star Pele appointed Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

- Expert Working Group to hold hearings next week in London on human rights situation in southern Africa.

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The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has condemned Iraq for non-compliance with the Agency's safeguards agreement.

This is the first time that a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has been condemned for concealing its nuclear programme.

According to a press release issued at United Nations Headquarters yesterday, the Board declared that Iraq had violated its safeguards agreement with IAEA by "not submitting nuclear material and relevant facilities in its uranium enrichment programme to the Agency's inspection".

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Speaking at the Board meeting, IAEA Director-General Hans Blix said major changes were needed to strengthen the safeguards system, and that the case of Iraq demonstrated the "challenges that may need to be met and the ability of the Agency to meet them".

The IAEA Board will transmit its conclusion to the Security Council in accordance with the Agency's statute.

According to a United Nations spokesman, a new inspection team will travel to Iraq next week to replace the current team, which leaves Iraq tomorrow, 20 July.

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According to the office of the Executive Delegate for Humanitarian Affairs in the Gulf, Sadruddin Aga Khan, fighting has broken out between the Iraqi army and the Kurds in northern Iraq.

United Nations spokesman Fred Eckhard told correspondents today that United Nations guards currently deployed in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, had reported yesterday that clashes had taken place between Kurds and the Iraqi military in that town, as well as in the town of Arbil. Estimated casualties ranged from about 50 to 500, he said, and the United Nations was awaiting clarification from sources in Geneva or Iraq as to the exact numbers.

The Executive Delegate was in touch with Iraqi authorities and also with Kurdish leaders to urge restraint on both sides, the spokesman said, and positive responses had been received from both sides in the conflict. He added that there are 100 United Nations personnel in the area, 87 of whom are security guards.

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Kuwait has informed the Security Council that Iraq has yet to release nearly 4,000 prisoners of war and detainees following the Gulf war.

In a letter to the President of the Council, the Permanent Representative of Kuwait, Mohammad A. Abdulhasan, said Iraq was not abiding by the terms of various Security Council resolutions, which called for the immediate release of prisoners of war under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The Ambassador further charged that Iraq had recently moved some prisoners of war and detainees to undisclosed locations, and that ICRC had been denied information of, let alone access to, these new locations. Since the cease-fire, he said, only 68 prisoners of war had been repatriated.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar is in Guadalajara, Mexico, for the second day of the Iberoamerican Summit. This morning, he attended aworking breakfast hosted by President Carlos Salinas of Mexico. The other participants included President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela, President Cesar Gaviria of Colombia and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain. These are the Heads of State and Government of the countries known as "Friends of the Secretary-General" in connection with the ongoing peace efforts in El Salvador.

A United Nations spokesman confirmed today that the Secretary-General had met yesterday with a delegation of the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) to discuss the ongoing peace talks. He also met separately with Salvadorean President Alfredo Cristiani.

Today, the Secretary-General participated in the working sessions of the Summit, devoted to economic and social development issues as well as international law.

The Summit will conclude this evening with a formal declaration, to be known as the Guadalajara Declaration. The Secretary-General will return to New York tomorrow, 20 July.

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Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pele, the name under which he became famous throughout the world as a star soccer player from Brazil, today was named Goodwill Ambassador for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

At a press conference at United Nations Headquarters today, Pele said the position was something new for him. He said people had to give something to succeeding generations, and that this was the moment to try to do something to save the Earth.

Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the 1992 Conference, said world leaders were in increasing numbers committing themselves to attend the Earth Summit. The whole purpose of a United Nations conference of this kind, he said, was "to provide special political focus and energy on issues that were not moving adequately in the normal course".

The Earth Summit, which will be convened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, next June, is expected to be the largest United Nations Conference ever, and is the first to be convened at the level of Head of State or Government.

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The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa will conduct a week of hearings in London beginning next Monday. The Group was established in 1967 by the Commission on Human Rights.

The Working Group, which has expressed particular interest in gathering first-hand information on the human rights situation in South Africa, will focus attention on developments which have occurred since January. It will hear testimony from persons with first-hand knowledge of the human rights situation in South Africa, particularly conditions after the repeal of certain apartheid legislation and the situation in the so-called "homelands".

The information received during these hearings will be taken into account by the Working Group in preparing its reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Commission.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/936
22 July 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Sadruddin Aga Khan urges Sanctions Committee to lift sanctions against Iraq to allow it to address urgent humanitarian needs.

◆ International Committee of the Red Cross evacuates dozens of people wounded in recent fighting in northern Iraq.

◆ In Geneva, members of Human Rights Committee criticize Iraq for concentrating on difficulties it faced as a result of Gulf crisis rather than on its own actions in human rights field.

◆ Third team of experts from International Atomic Energy Agency, back from Iraq, prepares report to Security Council and Secretary-General.

◆ Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar expresses hope for positive outcome to Middle East peace conference talks.

◆ China appeals to international community for $200 million in relief assistance for some 42 million people affected by recent floods.

◆ United Nations appeals for $376 million to meet basic needs of 25 million people in Horn of Africa. Coordinator for humanitarian assistance in Horn of Africa, James O.C. Jonah, travels to region at request of Secretary-General.

◆ President of African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), Nelson Mandela, indicates that senior South African officials were directly involved "in funding political activities in opposition to the ANC and bore direct responsibility for the murder, sometimes of entire African families".

◆ Talks open between Government of Guatemala and Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca on democratization and human rights.

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For information media—not an official record

The Security Council Sanctions Committee today was urged to consider lifting the sanctions against Iraq to allow that country to meet essential civilian needs.

The plea came from the Secretary-General's Executive Delegate on Humanitarian Affairs in the Gulf, Sadruddin Aga Khan, who has just completed a mission to the area. He told the Committee there was a clear and undeniable humanitarian need in Iraq and that it was absurd and indefensible for the United Nations to pay for these needs when numerous other urgent crises and disasters, from Bangladesh to the Horn of Africa, cried out for attention.

He said Iraq should be allowed to use funds from oil sales or use blocked accounts to meet essential needs. He called for a control mechanism and monitoring system to make sure the freed-up funds were spent to benefit people in need.

At a press briefing at Headquarters today, following a donors' meeting at the Canadian Mission to the United Nations, the Executive Delegate said action hinged on an acceptable control and monitoring mechanism. He was "encouraged by the interest and by the very detailed attention given by the Sanctions Committee to our report". He said the Chairman of the Committee had indicated that time was of the essence and that there was a feeling that the United Nations was "up against a very serious humanitarian crisis which could degenerate into a catastrophe rather quickly".

Outlining the situation currently facing Iraq, he said sewage treatment plants were paralysed, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases; prices had skyrocketed; stocks of food and medicine were running out; the social services network had broken down; and there was a whole pattern of criminality developing as people began to steal to feed their families. There was increasing violence and petty theft, and a general breakdown of law and order. If something was not done soon, famine could start appearing; the real test would come in the fall. He told correspondents that only $250 million had been received to date of the $450 million requested by the Secretary-General in April.

He said the Sanctions Committee would hold further consultations and another meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday, 24 July.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has informed the United Nations that it has evacuated dozens of people wounded in the recent fighting around the Iraqi town of Suleimaniyah, and has visited hundreds of people captured in the region.

According to an ICRC press release, the organization has prepared extra medical supplies which are ready to be sent to the northeast of the country if necessary.

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In Geneva, members of the Human Rights Committee have criticized Iraq for concentrating on the difficulties it faced as a result of the Gulf crisis rather than on its own actions in the field of human rights.

The comments came as the Committee took up Iraq's report on its implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights -- which deals with such rights as freedom of movement, equality before the law and freedom of opinion and expression.

The Iraqi report concluded that Iraq could not implement the Covenant due to what it called the "systematic and deliberate violation of its right to self-determination, interference in its internal affairs and the denial of its people of their means of livelihood by means of a continued and unjustifiable economic embargo".

But Committee members stressed that the current situation was a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. They said the report did not meet the Committee's guidelines because it did not concentrate on Iraq's actions but on those of others. Members asked for more information on both the pre- and post-war periods, including extrajudicial killings, executions and disappearances, the use of chemical weapons, the death penalty, human rights violations in Kuwait and reported attempts to manufacture nuclear weapons.

* * *

The third team of experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has now returned from Iraq and is preparing a report to the Secretary-General.

A press release issued today stated that the team was able "to inspect and place under Agency seals a considerable amount of nuclear material and a number of equipment items related to the newly disclosed Iraqi uranium enrichment programme".

The release said that while the team was able to obtain substantial information regarding the programme, much work and analysis remains to be done before any conclusions can be made as to the completeness of the Iraqi declarations to date".

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has expressed hope for a positive outcome to the current talks by United States Secretary of State James A. Baker on a peace conference in the Middle East.

A United Nations spokesman said today that the Secretary-General has been kept informed about Mr. Baker's progress on a possible Middle East peace conference. He said the Secretary-General wished the United States Secretary of State good luck and hoped that Israel would have a "constructive attitude".

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China has appealed to the United Nations and the international community for disaster relief assistance following severe floods that recently affected more than 42 million people.

The appeal, made on 11 July by China's Deputy Minister for Civil Affairs, was transmitted to the Secretary-General by China's Deputy Permanent Representative, Jin Yongjian, in a letter dated 15 July. The letter said more than $200 million, as well as materials and supplies, were urgently needed by the victims to meet critical relief and rehabilitation needs.

The Chinese official pointed out that the floods had caused serious health, environmental and structural damage; that it was difficult to reach victims in the flood-besieged villages to provide them with relief materials; and that the incidence of disease was as high as 25 per cent in the affected areas, with many victims suffering from dysentery, malaria and other diseases as a result of water pollution.

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The United Nations is appealing for $376 million to meet the basic needs of 25 million people in Ethiopia, the Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Kenya in the wake of drought and civil conflict that have caused massive population displacement in the area.

The figure was cited by the United Nations Coordinator for humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa, Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah, at a donors' meeting in Geneva last Friday, in response to the critical situation in that region. Mr. Jonah said: "Unless we tackle this crisis situation, the world might go on for ever with these emergencies".

Mr. Jonah arrived in the area over the weekend, at the request of the Secretary-General, to try to smooth out political difficulties that might be impeding some of the emergency relief. He is scheduled to attend regional consultations on the Horn of Africa in Nairobi on 29 and 30 July. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, also arrived in the region over the weekend to conduct an on-the-spot assessment of the refugee situation.

* * *

The President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), Nelson Mandela, has indicated that there was evidence that senior South African officials had been directly involved "in funding political activities in opposition to the ANC and bore direct responsibility for the murder, sometimes of entire African families" in some areas of South Africa.

In a statement made available at United Nations Headquarters today, Mr. Mandela repeated the ANC's appeal for an independent judicial inquiry to uncover the facts relating to "this aspect of Government activity". He said it was evident that the Government was "pursuing a double agenda of talking peace while it wages war on the ANC and the democratic movement".

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He said in the statement that the ANC was taking the opportunity to alert the international community to what it called the "dangers entailed in a premature lifting of sanctions". He said such precipitate action would only serve "to reward those responsible for this blood-letting that has already taken a heavy toll on African life" in South Africa.

* * *

A spokesman for the Secretary-General announced today that a new round of talks opened this morning in Mexico between representatives of the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). The talks will continue to deal with the first item of the general agenda agreed in Mexico on 26 April, namely, democratization and human rights.

Under the procedure agreed between the Government and URNG in Mexico in April, the talks are being held in the presence of the Conciliator, Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruño, and the representative of the Secretary-General, Francesc Vendrell, acting as observer. The talks are scheduled to continue through Friday, 26 July.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/937
23 July 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Food and Agriculture Organization issues "special alert", seeking immediate aid for Iraq where, it says, people are on brink of famine.

- United Nations Legal Counsel tells Governing Council of Compensation Commission that losses and damage are still occurring in Kuwait.

- The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator reports current funding shortfall of some $214 million for humanitarian operations in the Gulf.

* * *

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) today issued a "special alert" to donors to meet the immediate priority needs of Iraq where, it says, the food supply situation is deteriorating rapidly and people are "on the brink of famine".

According to FAO Director-General, Edouard Saouma, "suitable arrangements should be urgently worked out to enable Iraq to finance the purchase of its basic food imports for 1991-1992, estimated at a cost of $2.64 billion".

A United Nations inter-agency mission, which visited Iraq from 29 June to 13 July, estimated the cereal harvest in 1991 at 1.25 million tons, about a third of last year's record harvest. Livestock numbers have been almost halved and the poultry sector decimated. The mission also found that average food prices had increased considerably (48 times for wheat, 22 times for rice and 20 times for vegetable oil) and the nutritional status of the population was on the decline.

The FAO Director-General warned that "the information provided by the inter-agency mission clearly demonstrates a widespread and acute food crisis which, if not averted through timely intervention, will gradually cause massive starvation throughout the country". The mission set minimum rehabilitation costs for the agricultural sector sector at $500 million.

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For information media—not an official record

The Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, which will administer the payment of war reparations for losses resulting from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, began a two-week meeting in Geneva today.

This morning's meeting was opened by the United Nations Legal Counsel, Carl-August Fleischhauer, who was there as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Mr. Fleischhauer told the meeting that "the principal task of the Compensation Commission is to administer the Fund from which compensation will be made for claims arising out of direct losses, damage, including environmental damage and the depletion of natural resources, or injury to foreign Governments, nationals and corporations as a result of Iraq's unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait".

He said the losses and damages were still occurring and that the burning of scarce natural resources, which were set on fire, was causing immense damage and immeasurable risk to the environment and accumulating financial losses to the people and the State of Kuwait.

According to the Legal Counsel, hundreds of thousands of ordinary people had also been severely victimized, including enormous numbers of foreign workers who lost their jobs, lodgings and often all their belongings as a consequence of the occupation. These workers, who were compelled to leave the Gulf area, now constituted a social and economic burden for their countries of origin which had lost the remittances these nationals used to send home, he said, adding that the Council should bear this aspect of its task in mind when establishing the priorities of its work.

The Governing Council has also set guidelines for the presentation and evaluation of claims. The Council is composed of representatives of the current 15 members of the Security Council.

* * *

The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) has reported a current funding shortfall of some $214 million for humanitarian operations in the Gulf, out of a total budget of over $460 million.

According to a financial report issued on 22 July, the funding of refugee and repatriation projects is short $115 million. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) faces a shortfall of over $95 million -- nearly half of its budget for the area. The FAO is experiencing one of the most critical financial situations, with a shortfall of $43 million out of a total budget of $44 million.

The United Nations guards project, says the report, has been pledged or received more than $46 million, with a deficit totalling over $18 million. The UNDRO reports that a total of 291 guards are currently in place in Iraq. The European Economic Commission (EEC) has indicated its readiness, in principle, to pay the balance of the cost of the United Nations guard project.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/938
24 July 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General meets with members of newly established task force on Western Sahara.

- Working Committee of African National Congress of South Africa says de Klerk Government cannot be trusted to preside over transition from apartheid to democracy in South Africa.

- Cholera is sweeping through Africa at a catastrophic pace; World Health Organization, reporting 45,159 cases and 3,488 deaths, launches intensified global programme.

- Secretary-General appeals for humanitarian assistance to Liberia.

- International Committee of the Red Cross announces release of imprisoned delegate by Mozambican authorities.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar met this morning with members of the newly established task force on Western Sahara to discuss the implementation of United Nations plans for the region, a United Nations spokesman announced today..

The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) is expected to begin operations in early fall. The Mission will oversee a referendum process which will enable the people of the Territory to chose between independence or integration with Morocco.

* * *

The National Working Committee of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) has said that the de Klerk Government cannot be trusted to preside over the transition from apartheid to democracy in South Africa.

In a statement issued at United Nations Headquarters today, the ANC Committee said the facts that have come to life regarding alleged State

(more)

For information media—not an official record

sponsorship of anti-ANC activities, including the use of foreign mercenaries in the perpetration of violence against South African citizens, "State murder squads" and secret funds, posed a "grave threat to the peace process".

The ANC Committee said the recent expose of those activities underscored the need for an interim Government that would enjoy the confidence of the people, and it called on President de Klerk to put an end to what it called "these sinister practices".

In addition, the Committee has demanded the dismissal of the two cabinet Ministers allegedly involved in the activities, the establishment of a multiparty commission to investigate alleged Government involvement, the opening up of the secret fund to public scrutiny and the trial of the police officers allegedly involved in the scandal.

The Committee, which has also warned against the lifting of sanctions against South Africa, said it would measure the seriousness of the Government's intention towards the disclosures by its response to these demands.

* * *

Cholera is sweeping through the African continent at a catastrophic pace, killing people at a much higher rate than during the peak of this year's outbreak in Peru, Ecuador and other Latin American countries, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

A WHO press release issued today said reports covering the first seven months of 1991 from 10 African countries, reveal a total of 45,159 cases and 3,488 deaths.

Citing the rising epidemic, WHO announced that it has intensified its global efforts against deadly diarrhoeal diseases such as cholera. The Director-General of WHO, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, said the organization was committed to the global fight against these diseases. He said cholera is a disease of poverty and underdevelopment and that the conditions that spread the disease can be corrected.

According to the release, WHO plans to help countries improve their health infrastructure and water and sanitation systems. The agency also plans to provide emergency supplies of oral rehydration salts as well as health and information programmes and the training of health workers.

The WHO said that as of 18 July, the world total of cholera cases numbered 303,504 cases and 6,174 deaths.

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The Secretary-General today issued an urgent appeal for humanitarian assistance to war-torn Liberia. The appeal document, "Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Programme for Liberia", sets out a $136 million relief programme designed to raise nutrition levels and restore basic services throughout the country.

The programme gives priority to health and medical care, especially in previously inaccessible areas of Liberia; water supply and sanitation; education; and the needs of children in difficult circumstances. It also incorporates important measures for revitalizing the agricultural sector and assisting vulnerable groups, such as displaced persons, refugees and returnees.

The civil conflict which raged across Liberia during most of 1990 had completely disrupted the country's social, administrative and economic infrastructure and several inter-agency missions, composed of representatives of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, had visited that country to assess its most immediate needs.

The United Nations missions had concluded that while peace has prevailed in Liberia for several months, the country still required urgent assistance to alleviate the devastating effects of a protracted civil war.

* * *

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has announced the release of Hansueli Spiess, the ICRC delegate who was arrested on 21 July by Mozambican authorities, following the discovery of bales of military uniforms in an ICRC warehouse in Beira.

The ICRC said in a press release today that its policy is "to conduct its activities as openly as possible" and "it had therefore requested the presence of Government representatives when unpacking relief consignments and sorting them for distribution".

The ICRC also stressed that "it has never dispatched any military-type clothing or military equipment to Mozambique or elsewhere, nor has it ever distributed such items". The ICRC said it remained confident that it could continue its humanitarian work in Mozambique.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/939
25 July 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council considers details of possible mechanism to monitor use of money earned from sale of oil by Iraq.

- Fourth International Atomic Energy Agency inspection team departs for Iraq.

- Identification Commission of United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara completes first step of work reviving 1974 census list.

- Anti-Apartheid Committee appeals to South African authorities to take "immediate remedial action to establish good faith in any future negotiations and restore confidence of South African people".

* * *

The Security Council held consultations this morning to discuss the situation in Iraq. The Council has been urged by its Sanctions Committee to lift sanctions to allow Iraq to sell its oil so that it can meet its humanitarian needs. Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has also recommended that the oil embargo be lifted to enable Iraq to pay war compensation.

The Secretary-General told correspondents after the consultations that the Council was considering details of a possible mechanism to monitor the use of money earned from the sale of oil by Iraq.

The Secretary-General said the Council considered the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi population to be very urgent. He said he was glad that the Council was considering allowing Iraq to sell some oil in order to address this very serious question. He added, however, that some Council members wanted Iraq to pay other liabilities stemming from resolution 687 (1991).

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, Sir David Hannay, said the Council had reached very broad agreement on a number of points. To ensure that the proper priorities were observed, there would have to be

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For information media—not an official record

"water-tight controls at all stages", namely, at the stage of export of oil and the payment to be put into an escrow account; at the stage of purchase of the humanitarian products; and at the stage of distribution in Iraq, to ensure that "the humanitarian supplies benefit the people in Iraq and not the objectives of the Government of Iraq".

The Council is expected to continue its informal discussions.

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A fourth nuclear inspection team of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is scheduled to arrive in Baghdad on Saturday, 27 July, a United Nations spokesman announced today.

The team, which is made up of 15 members, will be headed by David Kay of IAEA. Its mission, undertaken under the terms of Security Council resolution 687, is to inspect Iraqi nuclear material and facilities which formed part of that country's enrichment programme.

The spokesman said that the findings of the third inspection mission, which was concluded last weekend, had been discussed this morning in Vienna by IAEA Director-General Hans Blix.

According to IAEA, more than 30 sites have been visited during the three inspection visits carried out so far. More than 300 samples of nuclear material and environmental samples have also been taken and 950 inspection days spent. However, the Agency said it was premature to draw conclusions as to the full extent of the Iraqi nuclear programme.

* * *

The Identification Commission of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) has completed the first step of its work, which consisted of updating and revising the 1974 Western Saharan census list.

The United Nations Secretariat had transmitted a copy of the 1974 census list to the two parties in October 1990, requesting that the list be updated, taking into account the population changes in the Territory in the past 16 years. As revised by the Commission, the new list contains a total of 70,204 names.

As a second step, the revised list is being published in the Territory to inform the Western Saharans whose names had not appeared in the 1974 census or on the revised list that they could apply to be included. An identification Commission team will go to the Mission area in early August to facilitate further work.

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The Special Committee against Apartheid has said that news of the secret use of public funds and of covert activities by the South African authorities for the purpose of weakening the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the anti-apartheid struggle has come as no surprise.

In a statement issued at Headquarters yesterday, Committee Chairman Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria said the Committee has repeatedly pointed out the "inability or unwillingness" of the South African authorities to bring violence to an end, as well as the involvement of elements of the South African security forces in instigating violence against black communities.

The Chairman said revelations of the secret public funding for subversive activities have confirmed the Committee's previously expressed concerns and indicate how premature the recent lifting of sanctions against South Africa by some Governments has been.

The Committee also urged South African authorities "to take immediate remedial action to establish good faith in any future negotiations", adding that unless a climate conducive to negotiations and free political activities was established soon, it was likely that the process of achieving national reconciliation and adopting a new democratic constitution might be derailed.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/940
26 July 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General again expresses concern over humanitarian situation in Iraq; to appoint special committee to deal specifically with humanitarian aid, once authorized by Security Council.

- United Nations Observer Mission inaugurated in El Salvador.

- Conference on Disarmament opens third part of annual session in Geneva.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has announced that he will appoint a special committee to deal specifically with humanitarian aid to Iraq, as soon as it is authorized by the Security Council.

The Secretary-General made the announcement as he arrived at Headquarters this morning, when he again expressed concern over the living conditions of the Iraqi people. He told correspondents that the situation in Iraq concerns everyone "regardless of the political implications", stressing that it was up to the Security Council to take a decision authorizing the delivery of aid to Iraq.

Yesterday, the Council held consultations to consider details of a possible mechanism to monitor the use of money earned from the sale of oil by Iraq to finance its needs in food and medicine. Those discussions are continuing.

* * *

Today, exactly one year after the signing of the Agreement on Human Rights between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) in San Jose, Costa Rica, the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) was inaugurated.

The hoisting of the United Nations flag in San Salvador marked the inauguration of what has been described as a unique Mission that will verify

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For information media—not an official record

fulfilment of the commitments undertaken by both parties in the historic Agreement -- to respect and promote human rights in El Salvador.

"There are high expectations among Salvadorians that our presence will help to improve the situation in El Salvador", said Iqbal Riza, Chief of ONUSAL, adding that the Mission will not only observe and report on the human rights situation, but also investigate cases and have them resolved.

Mr. Riza said ONUSAL was in El Salvador to work with the local authorities, as well as FMLN, to provide support to help them deal with human rights violations.

* * *

In Geneva yesterday, the Conference on Disarmament opened the third part of its regular annual session at the Palais des Nations.

Among the speakers, the representative of Peru, Oswaldo de Rivero, informed the Conference of his Government's recent initiative to organize a meeting in November to agree on measures to limit arms and strengthen security among Latin American democracies.

The Swedish delegate, Maj Britt Theorin, introduced a draft comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, which she said should provide a political and technical basis for intensified work on that issue. The Romanian delegate, Romulus Neagu, strongly advocated that all countries in Europe undertake an obligation to refrain from concluding alliances directed against other countries on the continent.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/941
29 July 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- IAEA report says "the possibility exists that there are still undeclared locations with sensitive equipment and material" in Iraq, and that full extent of Iraq's enrichment programme has not yet been disclosed.

- Secretary-General appoints Carlos Alzamora of Peru as Executive Secretary of United Nations Compensation Commission.

- Secretary-General recommends extension of mandate of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another six months, until 31 January 1992.

- Iberoamerican Heads of States and Government declare, at Mexico, their determination to unite to ensure common future of peace, well-being, social equality.

* * *

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has informed the Secretary-General that "the possibility exists that there are still undeclared locations with sensitive equipment and material" in Iraq.

The information was contained in a report on the third IAEA inspection in Iraq, which was transmitted to the Secretary-General by IAEA Director-General, Hans Blix, under Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

According to the report, which documents the findings of the team, Iraq has accumulated a large inventory of natural uranium, "through imports and indigenous production". Although the Iraqi side was cooperative in facilitating the team's efforts, and provided many clarifications about the declared enrichment programme, the report said, it was likely that the full extent of the "centrifuge enrichment programme has not yet been disclosed".

The IAEA inspectors also confirmed that the main production site for the enrichment of uranium was Tarmiya. By removing concrete, which had been poured over a key nuclear-enrichment component to conceal it, the team was

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For information media—not an official record

able to confirm earlier suspicions that the installation in question had been constructed for enrichment purposes. The members also concluded, on the basis of design data provided by the Iraqis, that the Tarmiya site, if fully operational, could have produced up to 15 kilograms of highly enriched uranium (93 per cent) a year, or more at a lower enrichment.

The team also said that the leader of Iraq's enrichment programme, J. Jaffar, Deputy Chairman of Iraq's Atomic Energy Commission and Deputy Minister for Industry and Minerals, denied that "any political decision had been taken to use the enrichment programme to develop nuclear weapons".

A United Nations spokesman said today that IAEA Director-General Blix is in New York and will brief the Security Council at its consultations tomorrow concerning the report.

The third IAEA team, consisting of 26 inspectors and 11 support staff from 22 countries, was headed by Chief Inspector Demetrius Perricos. The team concluded its work on 19 July. A fourth team arrived in Iraq over the weekend.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, after consultations with the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, has decided to appoint Carlos Alzamora of Peru as Executive Secretary of the Commission. The appointment will become effective on 30 July.

The Compensation Commission was established in accordance with paragraph 18 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) to administer the Compensation Fund from which compensation will be made for losses caused by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. The Governing Council was established pursuant to Security Council resolution 692 (1991) to serve as the principal organ of the Commission.

* * *

The Secretary-General has recommended that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) remain there for another six months, until 31 January 1992, at the request of the Lebanese Government.

In his report to the Security Council on the renewal of the Force's mandate, the Secretary-General says UNIFIL continued to make "an important contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security in a volatile area".

The Secretary-General has also recommended that the financial situation of the Force be addressed, since it was some $300 million in debt. He reiterated an earlier call that the size of the Force, numbering about 5,800, be reduced by about 10 per cent.

The Secretary-General reports progress during the last six months in reinforcing the Lebanese army's presence in the "security zone" area, in order

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to bring about the eventual withdrawal of Israeli forces. The Secretary-General points out, however, that during the same period, Israel continued to build up its forces and to conduct intensified military operations.

The Security Council is expected to take up the Secretary-General's report on Wednesday, 31 July.

* * *

Twenty-one Heads of State and Government of Latin America, Spain and Portugal have declared their determination to unite to ensure a common future of peace, greater well-being and social equality in the "Guadalajara Declaration", signed following the two-day Iberoamerican Summit in Mexico on 18 and 19 July.

The Declaration was transmitted in a letter to the Secretary-General dated 22 July, signed by the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Jorge Montaño.

The leaders, who came together for the first time to discuss challenges facing their countries, signed the historic Declaration on 19 July. They pledged their commitment to economic and social development, declaring that they would make every effort to free their peoples from "the scourge of poverty before the twenty-first century, and by doing so would help strengthen democracy" in their region.

They also affirmed their commitment to human rights and the standards of international law, saying that a future of peace and security was only possible if there was complete disarmament which discouraged the use of force and favoured a negotiated settlement of disputes.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/942
30 July 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council is briefed by IAEA Director-General and Special Commission Chairman on third inspection of Iraq's nuclear sites.

- Return of Kuwaiti gold seized by Iraq to begin next Monday.

- Organization of African Unity (OAU) announces candidates for post of United Nations Secretary-General.

- Fifty-seven projects eliminated from Operation Salam Programme in Afghanistan due to lack of resources.

- Democratic People's Republic of Korea puts forward new proposal for nuclear-free zone on Korean peninsula.

- Economic and Social Council concludes current session in Geneva; admits Israel to Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

* * *

The Security Council today was briefed by the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, and the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission overseeing the inspection and destruction or removal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, Rolf Ekeus.

Council members were informed of the findings of the third IAEA inspection team, which concluded that "the possibility exists that there are still undeclared locations with sensitive equipment and material" in Iraq, and that the full extent of Iraq's enrichment programme has not yet been disclosed.

Mr. Blix reported on what he called two important matters -- the action of the IAEA Board of Governors to condemn Iraq for non-compliance with its safeguards agreement, and the Agency's plan for future ongoing monitoring and verification in Iraq, as called for by Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

The Director-General told Council members that for the time being, the phase of immediate on-site inspection would continue, adding that it would be

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For information media—not an official record

"premature" to submit any final proposal for future ongoing monitoring and verification at this time. (The Secretary-General's 120-day deadline for submitting a plan for the long-term verification of Iraq's disarmament comes up this Friday, 2 August.)

Mr. Blix also told the Council that a permanent inspection presence in Iraq may be necessary in the future to allow inspections on short notice.

At a press conference following the consultations, Mr. Ekeus said work had not been concluded yet on a report on the long-term monitoring and verification of Iraq's missiles, chemical and biological weapons. He added that the plan, which would be ready by 1 Agust, would probably be "very stringent and very intrusive".

The fourth IAEA inspection team has arrived in Iraq and is scheduled to stay through next week.

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A United Nations spokesman announced today that a total of 3,216 gold bricks are to be turned over to Kuwait through a special United Nations team on the Iraqi-Saudi Arabian border starting next Monday, 5 August.

The information was received from J. Richard Foran, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, who is responsible for overseeing the return of seized Kuwaiti property. Mr. Foran reported from Paris that specific understandings on the return of gold, banknotes and currency -- that cluster being one of four priority areas identified by the Kuwaitis -- had been reached only last week. Civilian aircraft, museum pieces and national library property are considered other priority areas for return.

The spokesman said the transfer of the gold would involve weighing the bricks, which would be done by two experts from the National Bank of Austria. About 300 of the bricks, each weighing 12.5 kilograms, or about 30 pounds, could be processed each day. After the return of the gold, the banknotes and coins would be dealt with, although there were still some discrepancies to be cleared up concerning these. The matter of museum pieces and library property would be taken up only after the gold, banknotes and coins had been dispensed with, due to the shortage of United Nations manpower.

The spokesman told correspondents that Mr. Foran had reported that only one civilian aircraft remained intact following coalition bombing, and that the HS-125 would be returned in the coming days.

* * *

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) today announced its candidates for the post of United Nations Secretary-General. The current second term of Javier Pérez de Cuéllar expires on 31 December. A special Ad Hoc Committee of OAU, which met today in Abuja, Nigeria, put forth the following candidates for the positive consideration of the Security Council and, subsequently, the

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General Assembly: Boutros Boutros Ghali of Egypt; Bernard Chidzero of Zimbabwe; Kenneth K.S. Dadzie of Ghana; James O.C. Jonah of Sierra Leone; Owono Nguema of Gabon; and Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria.

In a press release issued at United Nations Headquarters, the OAU Committee said it was fully convinced that the aspirants were all eminently qualified and possessed the "necessary professionalism, competence and experience" for the position of Secretary-General.

On behalf of OAU, the Committee appealed to the international community to give an opportunity to an African to serve in the highest position of the world Organization.

* * *

Fifty-seven projects from the Operation Salam Programme for 1991 have been either abandoned or scaled down because of lack of resources, it was announced today. The Programme's budget for 1991, originally set at $136 million, has also been cut by $31 million, to $105 million.

In a statement to mark the release of the Operation Salam Progress Report, Benon Sevan, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan and Administrator of Operation Salam, said that "with no immediate end in sight to the conflict in this sorely troubled country, as well as with developments and compelling humanitarian needs in other parts of the world", the international community had become increasingly immune to the war in Afghanistan and the suffering of its people.

According to Mr. Sevan, some major donors have indicated that they will not commit substantial new funds to help the Afghan people until there is progress in the search for a peaceful settlement. Drawing attention to wide support by many Afghan leaders, groups and all the Governments concerned for the Secretary-General's statement on Afghanistan, in which he identified the elements that would serve as a basis for a political settlement, Mr. Sevan suggested that donors reconsider their position and commit new resources to relieve the desperate situation of the Afghan people.

Mr. Sevan stressed that pledges were still needed for an additional $26 million in cash, along with substantial in-kind contributions, including 15,000 metric tons of wheat and other food items.

* * *

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has put forward a new proposal for a nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula.

At a press conference at United Nations Headquarters today, the Permanent Observer of that country, Ambassador Pak Gil Yon, outlined his Government's new proposal. He said there was a possibility of turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone now that the nuclear-weapon States, "which consider the Korean peninsula their operational theatre for a nuclear showdown", were

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moving from confrontation to cooperation and reaching agreements on the reduction of these weapons.

The new proposal calls for the adoption of a joint declaration by the two Koreas on the establishment of a nuclear-free zone, and sets terms for its legal effect no later than the end of December 1992.

The Ambassador said the joint declaration would provide for a ban on testing, manufacturing and possession of nuclear weapons by both parties, as well as the prohibition of the development and passage of nuclear weapons, and nuclear military exercises in the nuclear-free zone. The proposal also calls for verification of the absence of these weapons through inspections of the north and south.

By the proposal, the United States, the Soviet Union and China -- the nuclear-weapon States neighbouring the Korean peninsula -- would guarantee nuclear-free status to that peninsula and remove all "factors contravening the nuclear-free status" of the region. The proposal specifies that the United States, "the party which has deployed its nuclear weapons in south Korea", must take measures to withdraw these weapons within one year after the declaration of the nuclear-free zone.

The Ambassador said his Government's new proposal was of "weighty importance" in the elimination of the nuclear threat against his country and in strengthening the system of nuclear non-proliferation on the Korean peninsula. It would also make a substantial contribution to consolidating peace and security in Asia and the world.

Both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea have recently requested United Nations membership. Ambassador Pak said today that his country would pursue disarmament efforts in an expanded manner once its membership of the United Nations was approved.

* * *

The Economic and Social Council has admitted Israel as a member of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The decision was taken by a vote of 32 in favour to 13 against, with 5 abstentions as the Council wound up its current session in Geneva.

While the representative of Israel welcomed the resolution, saying it could be a shot in the arm to the current peace process, the representative of Libya, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, said approving the request was tantamount to rewarding Israel's intransigence and belligerence.

In another action, the Council called for increased assistance to the Palestinian people in the wake of the Gulf crisis. By a vote of 48 in favour, to 1 against (United States), with no abstentions, the Council recommended that the General Assembly request the international community to increase assistance to the Palestinian people in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

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Explaining the only negative vote, the representative of the United States said the resolution implied Palestinian statehood and did not deal adequately with current problems.

During its month-long session, the Council took action on a wide range of other social and economic issues, including the growing problem of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). It called on the international community to coordinate efforts with the World Health Organization (WHO) in implementing the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS; and requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize moral, technical and financial resources to combat the disease.

In a separate action, the Council reiterated its call to transnational corporations to stop operations in South Africa. Noting the evolving situation in that country, including the repeal of the major apartheid laws, the Council urged the South African regime to make the eradication of apartheid "lasting and equitable". The Council vote was 30 in favour to 9 against, with 10 abstentions.

In another decision, the Council welcomed the measures taken by the Secretary-General to coordinate the activities of the United Nations system in response to the Chernobyl nuclear accident and to convene a pledging conference on 20 September.

With respect to the critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa, where an estimated 30 million people are at risk of starvation, the Council appealed to the international community to respond generously and promptly to the Secretary-General's appeals. The Council called on Governments and other concerned parties to allow full access to, and protection of, the international relief and development organizations and agencies, as well as the non-governmental organizations concerned.

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